for data on deep sea fishery resources, environment and productivity patterns, deep scattering layers (DSL), harmful algal blooms, benthos of shelf waters of East Coast and harvesting technologies through exclusive cruises of the Fishery Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Sampada.

Ocean Science and Technology Cell on Marine Culture System at Andhra University is conducting studies/surveys on pearl oysters along Andhra coast for commercial exploitation, management of brood stock of tiger prawns, and management of diseases in acquaculture.

All these activities are taken up as national programmes and it is not practicable to apportion the estimate of expenditure for Andhra Pradesh.

Seismic Survey of continental shelf

3622. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry propose to issue tenders for a seismic survey, to map the continental shelf along the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal;

(b) whether Sri Lanka is also claiming the same continental shelf as its own; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All States Parties to United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) including India and Sri Lanka are entitled to claim continental shelf in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. Neither India nor Sri Lanka filed their claims so far.

Rail bridges built by the Britishers

3623. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail bridges built by the Britishers, which have completed their life;

(b) the number of rail bridges, as an alternative, which have since been completed and are under construction, separately;

(c) the balance number of sites where construction work has to be taken up in hand; and

(d) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Life of bridge is not fixed merely on basis of age but on its physical condition.

(b) On an average 500 bridges are rebuilt/rehabilitated/strengthened/ regirdered/extended yearly. As on 1.4.2001 more than 2500 bridges are sanctioned for rebuilding/rehabilitation/strengthening/regirdering etc.

(c) and (d) Rebuilding/rehabilitation of bridges is decided on the basis of physical condition assessed annually though inspections and is a continuing process.

Delayed rail projects

3624. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway projects were under construction in the country till April, 2001;

(b) if so, the total number thereof, indicating the number of projects running behind their original schedule and since when; and

(c) the percentage increase in construction cost of each project, indicating the reasons for cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways has a large shelf of ongoing Railway projects and in April 2001, 278 projects were under construction pertaining to New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Metropolitan Transport Projects and Railway Electrification plan heads, with an anticipated cost of over Rs. 45,000 crores. The time over run can be calculated in those cases where the time schedule for completion of the project with matching availability of resources can be planned and assured at the time of taking up of the project. In case of Railway projects, the plan size is determined annually and as such, no estimation of time over run is feasible. Progress of these projects is dependent on availability of funds from year to year.